

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 and 16-22 are pending in this application. Claims 16, 21, and 22 are amended. Claims 14 and 15 are canceled. Claims 1, 8, 12, 13, 16-18, 21, and 22 are independent claims. No new matter has been added.

In the Second OA, the Examiner rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,372,903 B1 to Lee et al. (“Lee”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0012561 A1 to Willis (“Willis”).

The Examiner also allowed claims 1-13 and 17-20. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner’s allowance of claims 1-13 and 17-20.

Additionally, the Examiner stated that claims 16, 21, and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner’s statement that claims 16, 21, and 22 would be allowable.

Status of Drawings

In the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on February 19, 2008 (“First Amend”), Applicants noted that the Form PTOL-326 in the Office Action mailed on November 16, 2007 (“First OA”), did not indicate the status of the drawings filed on April 23, 2004.

In the Amendment After Final Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on July 28, 2008 ("First AAF"), Applicants noted that the Form PTOL-326 in the Final Office Action mailed on May 28, 2008 ("First FOA") also did not indicate the status of the drawings filed on April 23, 2004.

Additionally, in the Amendment After Final Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on November 24, 2008 ("Second AAF"), Applicants noted that the Form PTOL-326 in the Final Office Action mailed on September 4, 2008 ("Second FOA") did not indicate the status of the drawings filed on April 23, 2004.

In this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 ("Second Amend"), Applicants note that—once again—the Form PTOL-326 in the Second OA does not indicate the status of the drawings filed on April 23, 2004. Thus, that status remains unresolved.

As a result, Applicants reiterate for a third time their request that the Examiner indicate the status of the drawings in the next paper mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO").

Request for Reconsideration and Allowance

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-13 and 16-22 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; in particular, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By _____

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